

B.) REMARKS:**1. Introduction**

Claims 1-27 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 9, 17, 20 and 26 are independent.

The Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 26.

Claims 1-27 have been amended herein, in part, in response to particular rejections to the claims as particularly addressed herein below. Other amendments to these claims have also been made, but only to clarify the scope of that which the Applicants regard as his invention, and are not meant to limit the scope of such claims as existed prior to such amendments or limit the applicability of any equivalents thereto. No new subject matter has been added to this application by these amendments.

2. Rejections of the Claims under 35 U.S.C. §112

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected each of claims 1, 4, 8, 9, 17, 24 and 26, as well as any claims reciting "computer(s)," for various reasons under 35 U.S.C. §112. Applicants have amended the claims to remove or revise the affected recitations in the manners suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 are respectfully requested.

3. Rejection of claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected each of the pending claims 1-25 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103 in view of one or more references as summarized below:

Claims 1-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious in view of US 6,149,441 to Pellegrino and US 5,310,349 to Daniels;

Claims 1, 2, 5-10, 13-16, and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious in view of US 6,149,441 to Pellegrino and US 6,505,031 to Slider;

Claims 11 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of US 6,505,031 to Slider and US 5,310,349 to Daniels;

Claims 17-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of US 6,606,664 to Durago; and

Claims 20-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of US 6,505,031 to Slider and US 5,310,349 to Daniels.

Each of these rejections have been overcome by particular amendments entered to the Applicant's independent claims 1, 9 17 and 20, in which the allowable subject matter of claim 26 has been added. Accordingly, each of the independent claims 1, 9, 17, and 20 are now likewise allowable. Dependent claims 2-8, 10-16, 18-19, 21-25 and 27 are also now allowable via their ultimate dependency on one of these independent claims.

Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-25 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested.

4. Conclusion

This amendment is responsive to each issue raised in the Office Action dated October 22, 2003. Applicants respectfully request allowance of each of pending claims 1-27 and issuance of the present application.

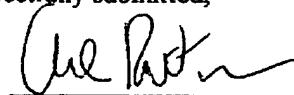
Please note that a Revocation of Power of Attorney and Change of Correspondence Address (5 pages total) has been filed herewith to formalize the recognition of the practitioner signing below (Customer No. 000041461).

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone if it will advance the prosecution of this application.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or a further extension of time is required in addition to that requested previously herein, the Director is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time, or credit any overpayment, to the below-signed practitioner's deposit account number: 502396.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



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Dated: March 18, 2004